(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report of Unit Trust of India, Chairman that there is a negative performance in sectors of automobile, steel and steel products, tyres, paper and tea;

(b) what has been the result of the policy of issuance of new equity capital by these companies; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so that the primary market is not slowed down and does not have a negative impact ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The guidelines for disclosure and investor protection issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India are common to all companies issuing capital. There are no separate guidelines for different sectors.

(c) There is no apparent indicator to show that the primary marks has slowed down, as evidence by the offer documents cleared by SEBI.

Simplification of Excise Duty structure on Tyres and Tubes

2314. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association urging upon Government to simplify the existing Central Excise duty structure of tyres and tubes;

(b) if so, the main points made in the representation alongwith justification therefor; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto and what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) In their pre-budget memorandum dated the 13th October, 1992 the Automobile Tyre Manufacturers Association have, among other things, made certain suggestions relating to excise duty on tyres. These relate to continuation of the existing specific duty structure, change in the existing practice of levying different duty rates on the basic of end use and rationalisation of duty structure.

(c) In view of the ensuing Budget for 1993-94, it is not possible to offer any comments at this stage.

Private accommodation on lease basis with UCO Bank

2315. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UCO Bank authorities have taken a number of private places on lease basis for their use;

(b) if so, the details of such private accommodation with them in the capital;

(c) whether the private accommodation with them on lease basis in Malviya Nagar area is still continuing despite expiry of lease term; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when and authorities are likely to vacate the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d) UCO Bank have reported that out of its 38 branches functioning in Delhi, the premises in respect of 31 branches have been taken on lease/rental basis. One such premises taken on rent is in Malviya Nagar. The request of the landlord for vacation of the said premises was considered by the bank. The bank has since conveyed its consent for vacation of the accommodation to the landlord subject to availability of suitable alternative premises.

Cases pending against reliance industries

2316. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total numbers of cases under Income-Tax, Customs and Excise

laws pending adjudication against Reliance Industries;

(b) what is the break-up of amounts involved case-wise;

(c) what are the details of demands confirmed by adjudicating authorities, case-wise; and

(d) what action Government are taking for realising the disputed amount in which courts have granted stay orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

P.S.U. cases with Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

2317. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of public Sector units that have been declared sick by Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction during the past five years;

(b) the number of such cases that are pending before the BIFR; and

(c) the number of cases that could not be declared as sick by the BIFR in the past five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that with the extension of the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to Government companies in December, 1991, references in respect of 60 Government companies have been registered with BIFR as on 30-11-1992. Out of these, 27 cases have been declared sick and one case was dismissed as not maintainable. The remaining 32 cases are under process as per the provisions of the Act.

Withholding of Non-Salary Payments in Central Government Offices in West Bengal

2318. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Governments have issued any circular for withholding non-salary payments in Central Government offices located in West Bengal;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and also the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is confined to West Bengal only or some other States have also been sent similar circular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Investigation into property held by Ex-Chairman of Banks

2319. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigations have been conducted by CBI and/or any other agency to locate directly owned and/or 'benami' real/properties held and acquired during last three years by the deceased Chairman of National Housing Bank, Shri Pherwani, deceased Chairman of Canara Bank, Shri Ratnakar, ex-Chairman of UCO Bank, Shri Margabandhu, ex-Chairman of Canara Bank, Shri N. D. Prabhu, ex-Chairman of Allahabad Bank Shri Wadhwa and ex-Planning Commission Member, Shri V. Krishnamurthi whose direct involvement in the Securities Scam is well-exposed;

(b) what are the respective estimated values, and

(c) whether Government have taken any action or contemplate taking action for attachment of the concerned properties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that searches were carried out in the premises of Late Shri M. J. Pherwani, Late Shri B. Ratnakar, Shri K. Margabanthu and Shri V. Krishnamurthy. Searches, besides incriminating material relevant for